

A EULOGY
ON THE
LIFE AND CHARACTER
OF
ALEXANDER GARDNER,

DELIVERED

At a Stated Communication of Lebanon Lodge, No. 7,
F. A. A. M., January 19, 1883;

BY

JOSEPH M. WILSON,
Of Lafayette Lodge, No. 19.

Published by order of Lebanon Lodge, No. 7.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
R. BERESFORD, PRINTER, 523 SEVENTH STREET.
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Mr. A. R. [illegible]
with the regards of Joseph M. Wilson.
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ACTION OF LEBANON LODGE, NO. 7.

At a stated communication of the Lodge, held Friday evening December 1st, 1882, Brother Thomas Taylor, W. M., announced the death of Brother ALEXANDER GARDNER, which took place, after a brief illness, on Sunday morning, December 10, 1882, between five and six o'clock, at his residence, No. 1112 Virginia avenue, S. W., whereupon a committee was appointed, consisting of Brothers William J. Acker, Thomas H. Young and John Reekie, to consider and report proper action in regard to the death of our late Brother. The committee subsequently reported that they had invited Brother Joseph M. Wilson, of Lafayette Lodge, No. 19, to prepare a eulogy on the life and character of Brother Gardner, and that it would be delivered at the stated communication of the Lodge, January 19, 1883. On the evening named, after appropriate music, the W. M. introduced Brother Wilson who delivered the eulogy. At its close the Lodge adopted the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That the thanks of the Lodge be tendered to Brother Wilson for his able, interesting and eloquent discourse.

"Resolved, That Brother Wilson be requested to furnish a copy for publication, and that it be published by the Lodge."

In Memoriam.

It is one of the best phases of humanity for the living to pay homage to the dead, to recall with affectionate regard their memory, to extol their virtues, and retrace the stages and occasions whereby they became useful to their fellow men. When living, we might imitate, admire and applaud them, when dead it is eminently wise to recognize their works of faith and their labors of love. These earthly tributes can be of no service to the dead, but they become lasting records of deeds held honorable among men.

Amid the great harvest which death is continually gathering to the tomb, it might seem that any single life would lose its special importance. But the value stamped by the Creator on every human life is intrinsic. Each separate soul glows with a spark of divine fire; each human destiny opens up its own immortal career, and each separate cluster of virtues adds its own contribution to the mass of human excellence.

There are always men who seem to be made for the times in which they live; men who are generic forces, who originate thought, create circumstances and stamp their own impress upon the community. Men whose plans command confidence, whose approbation is a guarantee of success, and whose word with those who know them has the force of law.

We are called upon at this time to consider, with becoming brevity, but with conscientious carefulness the life of just such a man, and Lebanon Lodge honors herself when she honors the memory of Alexander Gardner.

His character was a beautiful combination of goodness of heart, and tender sensibilities, and he has left a record freighted with deeds of benevolence. He was a man of

high impulses, warm affections, and strong feelings; nor did these feelings lie so deep as to be only occasionally stirred. His heart was not a well requiring line and bucket to reach the bottom, but an ever flowing fountain.

The warmth of the sun, according to the Fable, succeeded in displacing the cloak of the Traveller, when neither rain nor wind could wrench it from him, and this law of kindness he recognized to the fullest extent. He was, however, a man of great system, and much firmness in maintaining and carrying forward his plans, no one questioning the purity of his motives or the integrity of his character.

With a warm and active charity he displayed a shrewd perception of character, and while ever responsive to the appeals of distress, his insight into human nature protected him from being often deceived by the wiles of the designing, and even when thus deceived, he would shield the culprit with some kindly reference to the weakness of poor human nature.

Generous, without ostentation, he was ever ready to assist the deserving, none too poor or despised to lose his sympathy.

He was endowed with more than ordinary natural gifts. He had a vigorous intellect, a sound judgment, and possessed the happy faculty of acquiring and retaining knowledge. He excelled in apt arrangement, clear statement, forcible and conclusive argument; not brilliant, but lucid, compact, and argumentative. His chief desire was to convince the understanding, arouse the conscience, and affect the heart. To secure these ends, his well balanced and logical mind was eminently fitted. His personal influence commanded respect; his genuine honesty inspired confidence, and his practical efficiency enlisted co-operation and insured success. With a manly sturdiness of conviction, he presented an almost unvarying equability of temper, and with perfect candor an equally perfect courtesty.

There was nothing concealed nor ambiguous, either in

the purpose at which he aimed, or the mode in which he accomplished it. His intercourse with men was truthful. He acted on the principle that no success in life could compensate for the loss of the calm sunshine of conscious integrity. He had little time and no desire to go around a subject—is it right, or is it wrong? If right it must be done; if wrong, it must be resisted. He was thorough, advocating no half-way measures; he would reach the bottom of every subject, and study it in all its relations. He had untiring energy, and this work was, to him, a pleasure.

In the nature of the case he had enemies, those who opposed his views, interfered with his plans, crossed his purposes and doubted his wisdom. When this opposition was intelligent, honest and truthful, he welcomed it as an experience to be desired; modestly believing there were other ways of finding the truth than his own. When he felt that it was otherwise, he resisted his opponents with an activity untiring, no one misunderstanding the relation he bore to them. The force and vigor of his will was one of the chief elements of his power. He was as strong and persistent in resisting opposition, in contending with difficulties and in executing his purposes, as he was quick and sagacious in choosing the right and determining the best plans for adoption. His decisions, however, were not wilfulness, nor his persistency stubbornness, but kindness tempered all his actions and melted down the opposition, which would have successfully resisted a man of mere iron will. These qualities made him a leader.

In the prime of manhood, with many earthly hopes yet unfulfilled, a thousand manly aspirations still unmet—he was not—for God called him—and in the shadow which this event has caused we meet to night.

Alexander Gardner, the son of James and Jean Gardner, was born October 17, 1821, in Paisley, Scotland. His mother's maiden name was Glenn, an Ayrshire family of good standing, many of its members being well-to-do farmers, eminent ministers, and prominent physicians. They moved

to Glasgow, where the father soon after died, and the training of the family devolved upon the young mother, who, with rare good sense, executed her trust with sleepless fidelity, and was rewarded by the filial devotion of her loving children. She educated them in the best possible manner, recognizing in all its fullness, the value of knowledge. Alexander was a ready scholar, and soon became proficient in the higher class of studies, including astronomy, botany, chemistry and phonography, and was one of the earliest students of Pitman. In his fourteenth year he was apprenticed to a jeweler, in Glasgow, and served him faithfully for seven years.

He was, at this time, quite scholarly in his tastes, and fond of the company of educated people, and interested himself in many schemes leading to the amelioration of the condition of the working classes, and was ever willing to assist in any efforts made to increase their comfort.

He had the pen of a ready writer, and gave expression through the public press of his views and opinions on social problems, on science and art.

Leaving his trade, he became connected with "The Glasgow Sentinel," where he developed fine qualities as an editor. He was associated in the publication of the "Sentinel" with Mr. Robert Buchanan, whose son, Robert Buchanan, is at the present time, one of the most noted and sweetest poets of Scotland, and who lately published a volume of poems and dedicated it to Mr. Gardner.

His love of chemistry led him to experiment with photography, in which, as an amateur, he was quite proficient, and subsequently adopted it as a profession and became eventually one of our prominent photographers.

To give a practical turn to his views on the social conditions of the people of his native land, he conceived as early as 1848, the idea of establishing a colony in the United States, and he prepared a plan for a co-operative society, and wrote out the whole schedule of duties with every minute particular, so that the association would be fully

equipped and ready for any emergency. This colony, which contained several relatives and members of Mr. Gardner's family, came to the United States, took up a large section of land in Iowa, were reasonably prosperous. He remained in Scotland until 1856, when he emigrated to this country and landed in New York in the spring of that year. He was at once employed in the leading photographic establishment of that city, and introduced, for the first time, "Imperial Photographs." They were a new sensation to the profession as well as to the public, and soon became very popular.

In February, 1858, he came to Washington, where he soon attracted public attention by the excellence of his work.

In his profession he was an experimentalist, and never hesitated to spend time and money to secure any device which might enable him to reach the best results and thereby elevate the taste of the public in behalf of photography, which he ever held to be one of the fine arts, ranking with painting and sculpture.

His thorough knowledge of all the scientific demands of his profession and of all its branches, led to his being called into the service of the Government of the United States in connection with the Department of the Interior. The Union Pacific Railroad Company secured his services in photographing important points on that continental highway to the Pacific coast, prior to the building of the road.

During the early years of the Civil War he was the photographer for the Union Army, and became a member of the military family of General George B. McClellan, for whom he ever had the highest regard, not only as a military chieftian, but as a devoted patriot. He remained with him during all of his campaigns in Virginia, and on the General's retirement from the command of the Army of the Potomac, Mr. Gardner returned to Washington.

A lover of liberty, he was an abolitionist from his earliest recollection, and remained an enemy of slavery until it was destroyed. He was deeply interested in all plans to encourage self-reliance among the poor and lowly and to recognize the common brotherhood of man.

During these years he was a close student of social conditions in all things, and was busy in suggesting comprehensive plans to aid those whose lot was cast in the vale of poverty, and by actual experiment prove the soundness of the principle of co-operation, the wisdom of a mutual reliance upon each other in order to secure the best and largest results with the least possible expense.

While these problems were occupying the spare hours of Mr. Gardner, he was called upon to take charge of The Masonic Mutual Relief Association of the District of Columbia, as its secretary, and as such, to aid in shaping and controlling its plan and the methods of its administration.

The rare skill, the vast amount of wisdom, the prudence and the patient labor, with which he brought order out of confusion, revived the almost dormant interest of the members of the association, and made his name a household word in the families of Masons in this jurisdiction.

In fulfilling the duties of this office he found a fitting opportunity to enlarge his beneficent plans in aid of the economical, the thrifty and the industrious. He had looked into the matter of life insurance for years with some special interest, but it was not until he was brought face to face with the workings of the Masonic Mutual Relief Association that his mind was stimulated and he entered with zeal upon what proved to be his life-work. Without haste, but little by little, he obtained a practical knowledge of the business of life insurance as it met his daily experience. He would take nothing for granted, and in order to make his opinions worthy of the consideration, to which exhaustive examinations of any subject are justly entitled, he sought out the conditions which governed other organizations, in other Masonic jurisdictions, and for years carefully collated the facts thus gathered.

He began by issuing a circular letter to all Masonic associations, asking for information regarding their plans to meet the present and prospective needs of the brethren and their families. The replies showed that they were, to a very

large extent, based upon the mere sentiment of charity, as he says in one of his reports: "When Relief or Mutual Benefit Associations began to take definite form in this country, their founders had but one idea with regard to them, and that was, that they were charities in the broadest and fullest sense of the term." To place these organizations on a business basis seems never to have been deemed necessary by their directors. He knew that the sentiment of charity should pervade these organizations like the germinal principle of a seed, or the perfume of a flower, but over and above all, and in order to insure permanency, they must be founded on pure business principles. He extended his inquiries into the other "orders," and found by their responses that even less attention had been paid to the business demands of their organizations. He felt the necessity of doing something to reduce such a mass of inchoate material into a system and place the whole range of Mutual Assessment Insurance on a business foundation.

He entered into the examination of the mutual assessment plan of life insurance, beginning as far back as the Amicable of London which was established in 1706, and the oldest association in existence. He sought out by personal inquiry, by reading and correspondence, the facts bearing upon all other mutual assessment organizations, secured all possible information on the subject, and at the end of two or three years he summarized the result of his labors, and published it, and for the first time the friends of the mutual assessment plan were enabled to see to what an extent their idea of the correct system of life insurance had been adopted.

During this period he suggested the propriety of having a National Convention in this interest, to meet annually. He felt that the expression of opinions personally, accomplish much that cannot be reached by the press. The meeting face to face with those who sympathize, or those who oppose, was to Mr. Gardner a wished for consummation. If his views were correct, he wanted to see and know his constitu-

ency, and gain by the stimulating influence of approval, fresh courage for continued efforts. If his views were wrong to learn directly from those who conscientiously differed, the basis of their opinions and their processes of reasoning. His first thought was to form a convention of Masonic Mutual Relief Associations only. This object was partially accomplished, and led to a meeting of the secretaries of several of the Masonic Relief Associations at Elmira, New York, in 1876, invited there by Mr. H. B. Berry, secretary of the Southern Tier Masonic Relief Association, whose office is in that city. This meeting exerted its influence in other quarters until these annual conventions have proved very potent in correcting public opinion concerning life insurance, on the mutual assessment plan. While these influences were crystalizing, Mr. Gardner's sympathetic nature was deeply impressed with the necessities of the brethren who, from time to time, withdrew from the Masonic Mutual Relief Association by reason of their inability to meet the small demands made on them on the death of a member. This led him to suggest the grading into classes of the insured, and a plan to accomplish this result; and though Mr. Gardner urged this plan strenuously upon the directors, upon the members of the Association, and also in his annual reports as secretary, it did not meet with favor.

His heart's desire was to do this good work in connection with the Masonic Mutual Relief Association, and within the lines of Masonry, for he was in all things loyal to the craft and devoted to its principles, breathing into each effort to advance the interests of the brethren that spirit of self-abnegation which makes his memory so pleasant to those who knew and loved him. Notwithstanding the Association did not adopt the plan, Mr. Gardner was satisfied that it was sound in every particular. He had given it the conscientious study of years, bringing to bear upon its development a full knowledge of the law of statistics as applied to the questions of health and longevity. He carefully eliminated all those features which had proved ob-

jectionable in kindred organizations, and he believed that by prudent, intelligent and honest management, it would secure the confidence of the public and give to the policy holders insurance at about one-half the cost of ordinary life insurance.

In order to have such an organization founded upon his own conception of a safe, economical and popular Mutual Assessment Life Insurance Company, he decided to organize The Washington Beneficial Endowment Association of the District of Columbia and obtained a charter from Congress in April, 1877, and such was the wisdom displayed in its conception that the experience of six years has fully sustained the most sanguine expectations of its founders. So complete and absolutely correct are the business principles on which it is founded, so well adjusted are all its parts, that at the start it was welcomed by the citizens of Washington, and has, so far, not only retained the confidence, but has largely grown in favor with the people.

His mind seemed to be imbued with more than ordinary grasp, his views, which he gave to the public through the press, were incorporated into other societies, his opinions copied into other reports, and he displayed editorial ability of the highest order in the columns of the "Endowment Journal."

He interested himself in many plans to ameliorate the condition of the people. He gave but little attention to efforts to gratify the "greed" of the few, and very carefully avoided any entangling alliances with associations that were merely speculative, hence, he refused his name and his countenance to such organizations, which are continually springing up in important centres of population. He believed, and lived as he believed, that "a good name was more to be desired than great riches."

He had long looked with deep concern upon the old life insurance companies, but in order not to condemn them ignorantly he collected all the current literature and reports of these organizations, and subjected them to the test of a

candid and truth-seeking examination. The result was to confirm him in his belief that the mutual assessment plan was by all means the best. He would not attack the efforts made by the other insurance companies to secure business, as he says in one of his reports, "We are all engaged in the same beneficent work, we make no attack on life insurance companies, but we have often been forced to reply to many of the misrepresentations which they keep so industriously circulating," and he did reply with most vigorous English, exposing the weakness of their plans, their cost, their failures and the impossibility of their giving safe and economical insurance to the public. I will not make in this discourse any quotations from his reports, his circular letters, his editorials and his addresses, they are all of a broad and comprehensive character, but will give the opinions of a few of his cotemporaries, equally with himself officers of various associations; and as these views are given dispassionately, away from the influence of social life and of personal regard, they will be deemed more impartial than the utterances of one around whose heart are—

"Spun those nameless ties
In which the charm of friendship lies."

Mr. W. S. Campbell, Secretary of the Fidelity Mutual Aid Association, of Philadelphia, writes: "He was one of the pioneers, and did more than any other individual to place assessment life insurance upon the highest plane of respectability, and upon a solid and substantial foundation. He was a lover of statistics, and labored among them for his own enlightenment, and that he might improve the system of insurance which he espoused, correct its defects and weaknesses, and in this respect he accomplished much. He had qualified himself for great usefulness in the future, and the cause has lost one of its ablest, purest and most conscientious champions."

Mr. H. B. Berry, Secretary of the Southern Tier Masonic

Relief Association, Elmira, New York, says: "He was considered by all secretaries the defender of their rights, and the referee of all questions of doubt. In the former capacity no one could write more pointedly, and in the latter his wisdom outshone all others."

Mr. J. L. Kephart, of the U. B. Mutual Aid Society, Lebanon, Pa., writes: "He was not only an able man well versed in life insurance, but he was one of the most open-hearted, unselfish friends, I ever knew. A man who recognized in every honest man a friend and brother, regardless of creed, profession, or occupation. He seemed to me to live to bless the world."

Mr. Fred. H. Waldron, Secretary, Masonic Mutual Benefit Association, New Haven, Conn., says: "In his death I feel that I, with hundreds of others, have lost a warm friend, the fraternity, a wise counsellor and a zealous worker in the cause of humanity, warm hearted and genial to his friends, courteous to all, with a peculiar faculty of making friends and keeping them, frank in his dealings with all men, and generous to a fault, our associations have lost him; who was an acknowledged head, and whose place cannot be easily filled."

Mr. Chauncey F. Lake, Secretary, Western Pennsylvania Masonic Relief Association, Titusville, Pa., says: "I first met brother Gardner at Elmira, New York, in June, 1876, while in attendance at the first convention of secretaries of Masonic Relief Associations. There were present at that convention eight delegates, and chiefly through his efforts, this small beginning grew and increased; each year taking more tangible and permanent form, and enlarging its scope, until the organization now numbers hundreds of members, including nearly all associations insuring lives on the assessment plan. From the first meeting he has been chairman of the executive committee, and all associations of this character are largely indebted to him for statistics and information which was the result of vast labor and research on his part. In his death co-operative life insurance has

lost a friend and champion, whose place, I fear, will never be filled. Kind, generous, courteous, ever ready to render aid to organizations kindred to the one he represented, his memory will long be cherished and revered by his host of grateful friends. I am convinced that an estimate of his worth cannot be placed too high. The same warm hearted disposition permeating his whole existence and governing his public as well as his private life. Where want and suffering existed, his genial face and cheery, encouraging voice was to be found, ever inclining to look for the bright side and throw out of sight those dark and gloomy forebodings so ever present in the abode of poverty. His kind and welcome deeds will be missed by many of whose existence the world knows but little."

Mr. C. N. Shipman, of Elmira, New York, writes: "He impressed me as being a man of thorough conscientiousness, in whatever he undertook. He was zealous in the right and an earnest hater of shams and pretenses. His labors in the assessment associations was calculated to do much good towards establishing them on a sure foundation."

There is a pathetic interest in the following communication, from Mr. Isidor Bush, of the I. O. B. B., Saint Louis, Mo. He writes: "During the rest of my life shall I regret that I failed to make the personal acquaintance of our friend Alexander Gardner. By correspondence on the subject we had both so much at heart, I knew him for years. Often had he kindly invited me to visit him, or to meet him at the conventions of mutual benefit associations, but I delayed from year to year, until, alas! it is too late. And although I have never seen his face, never pressed his hand, I feel that I have lost a dear friend and the cause of fraternal insurance its ablest champion. He made no war on the principle of life insurance; indeed, he was foremost in reforming the assessment plan on the correct basis of life insurance, and in denouncing fraudulent and mismanaged concerns, but when the old system life insurance companies maligned and misrepresented all fraternal, assessment, endowment

and beneficial societies he was the strongest, most fearless defender of our cause. To his indefatigable labors, which brought out the statistics showing the magnitude of our mode of insurance and of the amount of benefits it annually produced; to his clear arguments, which perfectly demolished the attacks of our powerful antagonist, it is due that the insurance commissioners and State Legislatures were forced to recognize that 'of all the large and increasing number of organizations popularly known as charitable or benevolent, very many are all they profess to be, and are honorably fulfilling their beneficent mission.' (Insurance Commissioner's Report of Massachusetts, Dec. 18, 1881.) Brother Gardner and myself differed on some material points; but, far from petulantly contending for his own forms or methods, he loved candid discussion, and had no other desire than to search for the best and find the truth."

A friend in subjecting his character to a close analysis, writes: "His interest in benevolent projects arose chiefly from his kind-heartedness. He had a strong love of freedom for all, and yet a strong love of justice, and his love of justice had much to do with his benevolent purposes. He thought a great deal about the inequalities and wrongs and sufferings arising out of our civic and social forms, and saw how much better off the poorer people might be, and longed to see some way to help them. His mind was more than usually logical; in this he was a real Scotchman. He traveled from data to conclusion along a plain, well-marked road, he knew all the steps in a process of reasoning; indeed, he rather lovingly leaned towards metaphysics. It was this logical faculty which made him so positive and firm when he had reached a clear conclusion."

Another friend says: "A marked feature in his intercourse with his fellow-men was his unobtrusiveness, yet back of this was a firmness proof against all assailants. He formed his opinions by slow and logical processes. There was no 'jumping at conclusions' with him, nor did he hastily condemn what he could not accept. He was wont to say,

‘don’t be in a hurry; let’s wait and see.’ His sincere interest in his fellow-men caused him to give much thought to the problems which busy social scientists, that found expression in his thorough study of co-operative life insurance, believing it to be an instrumentality wherewith a wider field of use could be augmented than by almost any other means, to palliate the ever recurring social pangs and financial distress to which mankind is irrevocably subject. A beautiful trait of his character was his love of children, and he was ever ready to contribute to their entertainment. A lady recalled an incident of her childhood during a Sunday School excursion: ‘Walking along a country road I saw a beautiful thistle flower and managed to break it from the stem. Full of childish and patriotic glee I ran to Mr. Gardner with, “here’s your flower!” and he gave me a smile I shall never forget, and some such words as “thank you; thank you, my bonnie lassie. It does a Scotchman good to his very heart.” ’ ’ ’

With his usual care, he examined the plan on which Building Associations were based, and sympathized with their generally benevolent character. Selecting one which promised the best results to those who sought its aid in securing a home, he became one of the earliest members of the Equitable Co-operative Building Association of the District of Columbia. His mind, comprehensive as it was in its range, was yet imbued with a power to execute minute details to which he always paid particular attention. He became a director, and his experience led him to suggest to the Secretary, Mr. John Joy Edson, certain alterations in the plan of the Equitable, which had commended themselves to him, and which were adopted by the association. He did not obtrude his views upon the directors, but with a habit which was usual with him, he carefully explained the "Why and wherefore" of his opinions, made the matter clear and thus gained acquiescence. The harmony of the directors pervaded the association, and has secured marked success, and this co-operation in spirit as well as in letter

has placed the Equitable at the head of kindred societies throughout our land. So fully impressed were the members of the value of Mr. Gardner's services and influence, that at the annual meeting held in November, 1882, he was elected President.

During all these years he found time for other beneficent efforts. He recognized the "value of littles," and was one of the founders of The Saint John's Mite Association, a leading Masonic charity of this city, and its secretary from its origin in 1871. This was an organization dear to him, doing its good work faithfully and unostentatiously.

In all business transactions he was generous to magnanimity; he believed in the principle "to live and let live," no meanness ever shadowed his dealings with his fellow man. He was liberal in the payment of wages, despising that wretched economy born of selfishness, that would oppress those who do the work, accepting in all its fullness the scriptural injunction that "the laborer is worthy of his hire."

When he entered upon his great work he found that co-operative and mutual assessment associations for the insurance of lives, were resting on the fluctuating basis of charity, which is at one time full of enthusiasm, generous, effusive and active, at another, cold, unsuggestive, unreliable and dull. He reduced this condition to that of order and security, fixed the basis on which they should rest with mathematical precision; worked out longevity tables to the finest possible point, making them not only suggestive, but intelligible and readily comprehended. His judgment and experience, which he gave so freely, were invaluable factors in the standing of the Masonic Mutual Relief, and the Washington Beneficial Endowment Associations, two organizations having for their object the relief of those in need when death invades their households.

Twin monuments to his memory, they will remain to bless the fraternity and the people with their beneficent influences. Having been born in wisdom, nurtured in integrity and trained in faithfulness, they will grow in strength and

power, and in parallel columns, without rivalry or competition, will pursue their benevolent course through the framework of society, as streams flow gently through meadows, giving vitality to the forces of nature and clothing the earth with beauty.

Mr. Gardner was Secretary of the Masonic Mutual Relief Association until June, 1882, when he resigned. This was followed by his election at the annual meeting held November 26, 1882, as President, which was the highest gift the directors were able to bestow. It was recognized, as it was intended to be, as a fitting tribute of regard to one so eminently worthy, for his efficiency as a member, for his discretion as a director and his faithfulness as an officer.

With his usual carefulness in the consideration of great and important questions, he gave the subject of Masonry, as far as he was able, a thorough examination, and it was not until his thirty-third year that he received the degree of Master Mason, which was conferred by Port Dundas and Cowcadden Saint George's Lodge, No. 333, Glasgow, Scotland. He affiliated with Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, Washington, D. C., ———, 1868. He received the order of the Red Cross in Washington Commandery Knights Templar February 9th, 1881, and the order of the Temple the 9th of the following month. How he fulfilled his obligations it would be vain for me to recite, in view of the fact that he was known and read of all men as a bright and shining example of Masonic faithfulness.

Mr. Gardner married Miss Margaret Sinclair, of Glasgow, Scotland, who, with a son and daughter, survive him, and I trust that it comes within the province of this occasion if I lift, but for a moment, the veil which shields private life from public gaze, and look in upon a household, where the father was friend and counsellor, where his presence was light and joy, and where was combined in the gentlest manner, dignity to command respect, justice to insure confidence and mildness of temper to elicit love; and where, under this overwhelming shadow, the daughter, with tender devo-

tion, lightens the gloom; and the son, with filial piety, lovingly soothes the grief, which rests upon the passing hours of their widowed mother.

Mr. Gardner was born and raised in the Presbyterian form of religious faith. He was instructed in the shorter catechism, and well understood the plan of salvation, as held by that prominent branch of the Christian church, and this training gave his mind a reverential cast of thought when considering any matters pertaining to religious belief. In later years he embraced the faith of the Church of the New Jerusalem, and held to the greatest catholicity of sentiment on the subject of dogmatic theology, and respected differences of opinion in matters of faith, as he did in matters of politics, but as firmly held to the fundamental articles of religion as he did to the essential basis of morals. He believed that the freedom of the soul is the soul of freedom.

In the midst of a busy life, with its multifarious incidents, its kindly purposes, its manly aspirations, and its sanguine hopes, the hand of disease fell heavily upon him. From the beginning of his illness those near him feared the worst, but their anxiety was not shared to any extent by the patient. The strong Scotch fibre of his constitution, years of uninterrupted health, the clearness of his mental powers, all buoyed up the hopes of the stricken one, that his health would soon return.

The obscurity of his disease baffled alike the physician's skill and the untiring devotion of family and friends. I spent an hour with the family the evening preceding his death, and though the sweep of the wings of Azrael could almost be felt in the grief-haunted chamber, and though the very air seemed to be conscious of the impending sorrow, he often hopefully said, "he held the fort." His vitality was marvelous, and gave promise if not of possible recovery, of at least a delay of the final summons. As the wants of the patient sufferer were supplied, he met every act of kind-

ness with looks of gratefulness, and with a faint smile and comforting words tried to soothe the saddening hearts of those he loved; but the work of disintegration went on, and the restlessness of approaching dissolution increased, as one by one "the pins were taken out of the tabernacle," and to this restlessness was added sensations of special distress, causing at times half-audible indications of intense pain. These conditions and the attendant nervousness failed to respond to the medical remedies provided.

And so the sad vigils of the night went by, but ere the longed for morning light appeared a sudden cry of agony, a violent convulsion of the limbs, a pressing of his hands across the heart and a tremor of the whole frame proved that man's last enemy had conquered, and the soul of our friend passed over the river of death.

Thus Alexander Gardner lived, and thus he died. But who shall say that his life was incomplete. The earthly dates that limit the time of birth and death are not God's boundaries, but his providence gives a grander finish than that of years to the circumstances of existence. For, although in the ordinary relationships of life his memory sheds a fragrant beauty, yet our thoughts invest him with far richer usefulness, and his name and his labors a far greater influence for good.

How blest the fame which joins the approbation of friends with the commendation of Heaven, and adds to the plaudits of the world the benediction of God.

The death of men whose greatness is their goodness and usefulness, comes over us like the quiet shades of evening, with a sense of departed glory, and fills us with tender reflections, calling our thoughts from earth to heaven, from man to God.

On the 12th of December, 1882, a large company met to follow to the grave all that was mortal of our friend, and as we gathered around him as he rested in his coffin, and gazed upon his high forehead, his finely cut features, his flowing

almost patriarchal fullness, he seemed to be sleep-

“ Before decay’s effacing fingers
 Had swept the lines where beauty lingers,
 And but for that sad shrouded eye,
 That fires not, wins not, weeps not now;
 And but for that chill, changeless brow,
 Where cold obstruction’s apathy
 Appals the gazing mourner’s heart,
 As if to him it could impart
 The doom he dreads, yet dwells upon.
 Yes, but for these, and these alone,
 One moment, nay one treacherous hour,
 We almost doubt the tyrant’s power,
 So fair, so calm, so softly sealed,
 The first, last look by death revealed.”

The rites of his Church were rendered, the services of the Knights Templar were performed, and the long funeral train wended its melancholy way to Glenwood, where the impressive ceremonial of the Masons closed the scene; and he whom we all loved became to us a memory.

In the reverent language of our ritual, “ The will of God is accomplished. God’s will be done.”